

Serial No. 10/788,824

REMARKS

Application Status

Claims

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application after amendment herein.

Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 17-18 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 13-16 were rejected.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 13 and 18 are amended herein

Claims 5, 11 and 17 are canceled

Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent claims.

Objection to Claims

Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 17-18 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 7 and 13 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Scholefield et al (USPN 5,742,592, herein "Scholefield") in view of Garcia-Luna-Aceves (US 2002/0167960 A1, herein "Garcia"). Claim 2, 8 and 14 were rejected as obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia and further in view of Peterson (US 6,301,262). Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected as obvious over Scholefield in view of Garcia and further in view of Padovani et al. (US 6,574,211) and Dail et al (US 5,570,335).

Without acquiescing to the assertions of the Office Action, reserving the right to file continuation application directed to the subject matter recited in the independent claims previously presented, and merely to further prosecution at this time, the Applicant traverses the outstanding rejections and objections by incorporating the subject matter indicated allowable in claims 5, 11 and 17 into their respective base claims, claims 1, 7

Serial No. 10/788,824

and 13 respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 13 and allowance of those claims is requested.

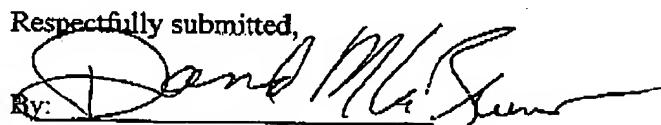
Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 1. Claims 8-10 and 12 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 7. Claims 14-16 and 18 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits these claims are patentable based on claim dependency and for at least the reasons above stated.

Based on the above remarks and the amendments to the claims, applicants submit that the claims have been shown to be allowable and that the basis for any rejections has been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all the claims presently in the application is respectfully requested, as is passage to issuance of the application. If the Examiner should feel that the application is not yet in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would be useful, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M La Bruno".

Rv:

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